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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,186	12/02/2003	Karen S. Mullis	030463 (BLL-0132)	5207
36192 7590 01/04/2008 CANTOR COLBURN LLP - BELLSOUTH 20 Church Street 22nd Floor Hartford, CT 06103			EXAMINER ANWAH, OLISA	
			ART UNIT 2614	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/04/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/727,186	Applicant(s) MULLIS ET AL.	
	Examiner Olisa Anwah	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Malley et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,996,707 (hereinafter O'Malley).

Regarding claim 1, O'Malley discloses a method for providing comprehensive facsimile information within a voicemail system, comprising:

receiving a facsimile at a voicemail system;

storing said facsimile in a recipient voice mailbox;

interpreting elements of a facsimile, said interpreting performed by optical character recognition software; and

upon receiving a request by a voicemail recipient to access said voice mailbox:

converting interpreted elements of said facsimile into audible speech via a text-to-speech engine;

formatting converted elements resulting in a voicemail facsimile notification; and

presenting said voicemail facsimile notification to a communications device associated with said voicemail recipient (see Figures 1 and 5).

Regarding claim 2, see column 8.

Regarding claim 4, see column 8.

Regarding claim 5, see Figure 5.

Regarding claim 6, see Figure 5.

Regarding claim 7, see Figure 8.

Regarding claim 8, see Figure 8.

Regarding claim 9, O'Malley discloses a storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for providing comprehensive facsimile information within a voicemail

system, said storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, comprising:

receiving a facsimile at a voicemail system;

storing said facsimile in a recipient voice mailbox;

interpreting elements of a facsimile located in said facsimile, said interpreting performed by optical character recognition software; and

upon receiving a request by a voicemail recipient to access said voice mailbox:

converting interpreted elements of said facsimile into audible speech via a text-to-speech engine;

formatting converted elements resulting in a voicemail facsimile notification; and

presenting said voicemail facsimile notification of said facsimile to a communications device associated with said voicemail recipient (see Figures 1 and 5).

Regarding claim 10, see column 8.

Regarding claim 12, see column 8.

Regarding claim 13, see Figure 5.

Regarding claim 14, see Figure 5.

Regarding claim 15, see Figure 8.

Regarding claim 16, see Figure 8.

Regarding claim 17, O'Malley discloses a communications network system for providing comprehensive facsimile information within a voicemail system, comprising:

- a server executing a voicemail system that includes at least one voice mailbox;

- a comprehensive voicemail tool executing on said server, said comprehensive voicemail tool including optical character recognition software and a text-to-speech engine;

- a link to a facsimile sending device;

- a link to a remote facsimile recipient device; and

- a facsimile received at said voicemail system, said facsimile transmitted by said facsimile sending device;

wherein said comprehensive voicemail tool performs:

storing said facsimile in said at least one voice mailbox;

interpreting elements of said facsimile using said optical character recognition software; and

upon receiving a request by a facsimile recipient to access said voice mailbox:

converting interpreted elements of said facsimile into audible speech via a text-to-speech engine;

formatting converted elements resulting in a voicemail facsimile notification; and

presenting said voicemail facsimile notification elements of said facsimile to said facsimile recipient (see Figures 1 and 5).

Regarding claim 18, see column 8.

Regarding claim 20, see column 8.

Regarding claim 21, see Figure 5.

Regarding claim 22, see Figure 8.

Regarding claim 23, see Figure 8.

Regarding claim 24, see Figure 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 11 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Malley.

Regarding claim 3, O'Malley does not explicitly mention the header includes a sender's facsimile number, a time and date of said facsimile transmission and a number of pages transmitted. "Official Notice" is taken that this limitation is both old and well known in the art. Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify O'Malley wherein the header includes a sender's facsimile number, a time and date of said facsimile transmission and a number of pages transmitted. This modification would have

improved the system's user friendliness by allowing the user to decide how important the facsimile message is as suggested by O'Malley (see column 3).

Claim 11 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 3.

Claim 19 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 11.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olisa Anwah whose telephone number is 571-272-7533. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8.30 AM to 6 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on 571-272-7547. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications and 571-273-8300 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2600.

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Olisa Anwah
Patent Examiner
December 26, 2007

Olisa Anwah